as made by the Central Government and employers and employees and also by voluntary contributions of employees. The ongoing computerisation of maintenance of accounts is expected to increase significantly the efficiency in the rendering of various services.

Coal mining operation by SECL

3823. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the South Eastern Coalfieds Ltd. has been carrying out mining operations to extract coal from some collieries in Madhya Pradesh for the last fifteen years;

(b) what were the terms and conditions including mining lease agreement with the SECL;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to regularise mining operations by the SECL;

(d) if so, the details in this regard; and

(e) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Mining operations of South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL) started in the State of Madhya Pradesh with the formation of the company in 1986.

(b) to (d) Except three mines namely Pali Underground, Bhadra Underground and Govinda Underground, SECL has acquired mining lease under the relevant provisions of Mines & Minerals (Regulation & Development) (MMRD) Act. Terms and conditions of the lease are as per the relevant provisions of Mineral Concession Rules 1960. Wherever land has been acquired under Coal Bearing Areas Act, 1957, mining rights accrue by virtue of acquisition under that Act.

(e) In respect of three collieries mentioned above, mining operation is being carried out on the strength of working permission granted by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The delay in execution of mining lease deeds in respect of these three mines has resulted due to amendment in the MMRD Act. SECL are following up with the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh for early execution of the mining lease deeds for these three mines viz: Pali, Bhadra and Govinda.

Non-supply of appropriate Coal to Thermal Power Stations

3824. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited and its subsidiary companies/ organisations have not been supplying appropriate quantities of coal to thermal power stations in the country as a result of which the power generation could not be stepped up;

(b) whether the requirements of Delhi Vidyut Board or erstwhile Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking have been pending since long with Coal India Limited or its subsidiaries despite updated payments;

(c) whether Government have taken any action in this regard to ensure quick and quality supply of coal to thermal power stations including Delhi Vidyut Board; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No, Sir. Coal linkages to each Thermal Power Station is sanctioned by the Standing Linkage Committee on the basis of recommendation made by the Central Electricity Authority which are based on the generation targets fixed for each thermal power station. Allotment/movement would however depend on transport contraints, unloading of coal wagons by power houses and timely payment for coal supplies.

Despatches to power sector have been consistently increasing over the years. Both Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) have been able to meet the growing demand of power sector in full. They were able to despatch a quantity of 202.71 million tonnes (provisional) during the year 1996-97 to power sector as against actual despatches of 187.79 million tonnes during 1995-96.

(b) Despatches of coal to power stations of Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB) has also been maintained. During the year 1996-97 a quantity of 16.29 lakh tonnes has been despatched to DVB as against the despatches of 17.83 lakh tonnes during the year 1995-96.